1. (Currently Amended) In a computer network, a method for maintaining an acceptable use policy comprising:

receiving input from a user selecting a subject matter category for use in monitoring network communications;

monitoring TCP/IP network communications;

storing raw TCP/IP session data of said TCP/IP network communications on disk, even when the communication does not conform to a known protocol;

testing the stored communications for the presence of at least one preselected criterion, wherein the preselected criterion is defined by a user, is ~~associated with the user selected subject matter category, and~~ comprises two or more subject matter categories each comprising regular expressions, with a first portion of said regular expressions assigned weights with negative values and a second portion of said regular expressions assigned weights with positive values, ~~comprises one or more regular expressions~~, wherein the raw TCP/IP session data including all TCP control and payload data is tested for the presence of the at least one preselected criterion and wherein said testing first tests the stored communications for the presence of the negative valued regular expressions;

maintaining a sum of values associated with said regular expressions found within at least one subject matter category as each regular expression is found by said testing by adding the value of the found regular expression to the sum of values;

deleting the communications if the presence of said at least one preselected criterion is not determined; and

storing the communications and halting the testing and maintaining if the sum of values associated with said regular expressions within a category meets or exceeds a positive threshold value selected based on user input. ~~if the presence of said at least one preselected criterion is determined,~~

~~wherein the preselected criterion comprises two or more subject matter categories;~~

~~wherein said subject matter categories comprise regular expressions;~~

~~wherein a first portion of said regular expressions are assigned weights with negative values and a second portion of said regular expressions are assigned weights with positive values; and~~

~~wherein regular expressions within a subject matter category having a negative value are processed before regular expressions having a positive value.~~

2-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising prioritizing the order in which regular expressions within a subject matter category are tested.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said prioritizing reduces the likelihood of false hits.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is a wide area network.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is a local area network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence of the preselected criterion in at least one of said categories comprises a match in a plurality of categories.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject matter categories comprise key words.

16-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[21]] 1, wherein the threshold value of at least one subject matter category comprises equaling or exceeding the threshold value in a plurality of subject matter categories.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said threshold values assigned to said subject matter categories are variable.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 1, wherein said subject matter categories have a hierarchical relationship.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said hierarchical relationship comprises defining the threshold value for at least one subject matter category as the presence of predetermined expressions in a plurality of other subject matter categories.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said hierarchical relationship comprises defining the threshold value for at least one subject matter category as matching or exceeding the threshold value assigned to a plurality of other subject matter categories.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of said at least one preselected criterion.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said report identifies individuals whose use of the computer network included communications which matched preselected criterion.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said report identifies network addresses where communications were received or originated that included matched preselected criterion.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of preselected criterion, wherein said report identifies the number of matches in a category.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said report is in a graphical format and at least a portion of the stored communications is displayed in a user interface in a form matching that generated or viewed during the monitored TCP/IP network communications.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said report provides the text of all communications that match said preselected criterion.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said report is in a human readable format and at least a portion of the stored communications is provided in the report in a form matching that generated or viewed during the monitored TCP/IP network communications.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring and maintaining an acceptable use policy for computer network usage comprising:

capturing data on a network, wherein the data comprises multiple half sessions of TCP/IP network communications;

removing data content that does not contain language elements;

testing the remaining content for the presence of predetermined expressions, wherein the predetermined expressions comprise two or more categories each containing predetermined expressions that are defined by a user and are weighted with positive and negative values, wherein said testing first tests the remaining content for the presence of the negative valued predetermined expressions;

maintaining a sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions found within at least one category as each predetermined expression is found by said testing by adding the value of the found predetermined expression to the sum of values; and

storing the remaining data and halting the testing and maintaining if the sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions within a category meets or exceeds a positive threshold value selected based on user ~~input;~~ input.

~~wherein said expressions are weighted with either positive or negative values;~~

~~wherein the negative valued expressions are tested first; and~~

~~wherein the testing and the maintaining are halted and the storing is performed when the sum of values within a category meets or exceeds the positive threshold value.~~

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said computer network is a local area network.

37-41 (Cancelled).

42. (Previously Presented ) The method of claim 34, wherein said negative and positive valued regular expressions are separately tested in the order of largest value to smallest value.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said expressions include regular expressions.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the threshold value for at least one category comprises meeting or exceeding the threshold value for a plurality of other categories.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the threshold value of at least one category comprises meeting or exceeding the threshold value for at least one other category and not meeting or exceeding the threshold value for at least another category.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said threshold value for a category is variable.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of predetermined expressions.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said report identifies individuals whose use of the computer network included communications which matched predetermined expressions.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said report identifies network addresses where communications were received or originated that included matched predetermined expressions.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of predetermined expressions, wherein said report identifies the number of matches in a category.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said report is in a graphical format and at least a portion of the stored communications is displayed in a user interface in a form matching that generated or viewed during the monitored TCP/IP network communications.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said report provides the text of all communications that match said predetermined expressions.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said report is in a human readable format and at least a portion of the stored communications is provided in the report in a form matching that generated or viewed during the monitored TCP/IP network communications.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring and maintaining an acceptable use policy for computer network usage comprising:

capturing TCP/IP data on a network;

removing data content that does not contain language elements and storing a remaining content comprising a string of language elements separated by spaces without regard to original formatting of the captured TCP/IP data;

defining categories with weighted predetermined expressions, wherein the predetermined expressions are defined by a user and are weighted with positive and negative values;

testing the remaining content for the presence of predetermined expressions, wherein said testing first tests the remaining content for the presence of the negative valued predetermined expressions;

maintaining a sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions found within each category as each predetermined expression is found by said testing by adding the value of the found predetermined expression to the sum of values; and

storing the remaining ~~data~~ content and halting the testing and maintaining if the sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions present within a category exceeds a positive threshold value.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said remaining data is stored only if the sum of predetermined expressions exceeds the threshold value in a plurality of categories.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the threshold value for a category is defined as the presence of no predetermined expressions.

58 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said computer network is a local area network.

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of predetermined expressions whose sum meets or exceeds the threshold value of a category.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said report identifies individuals whose use of the computer network included communications which contained predetermined expressions whose sum matched or exceeded the threshold value of at least one category.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said report identifies network addresses where communications were received or originated that included predetermined expressions whose sum matched or exceeded the threshold value of at least one category.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said report is in a graphical format and at least a portion of the stored communications is displayed in a user interface in a form matching that generated or viewed during the monitored TCP/IP network communications.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one stored half session comprises a plurality of independent parts, and the testing is performed individually on each independent part.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65 wherein the independent parts comprise individual email messages.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65 wherein the independent parts comprise message attachments.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

prior to the testing, attempting to identify a protocol by comparing the stored TCP/IP network communications with known protocol patterns, wherein when the attempting results in one of the known protocol patterns being identified, the testing of the stored communications involves testing of each independent part of the stored TCP/IP network communications associated with the identified one of the known protocol patterns.